

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02674 031057Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 /056 W

-----031105Z 052097 /13

P R 030954Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4228

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2674

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

AMMAN PASS OMB REPRESENTATIVE ZUZA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS SY LE

SUBJ: SHIHABI'S COMMENTS ON LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 3213, (B) STATE 120648

1. SUMMARY: WE FIND OURSELVES IN AGREEMENT WITH SY

IAN COS

SHIHABI IN HIS ANALYSIS OF LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS (REF A) ON

VIRTUALLY EVERY POINT. END SUMMARY.

2. VISIT BY LEBANESE ARMY CG KHOURY TO DAMASCUS. SUBSTANCE
OF SHIHABI'S COMMENTS ON VICTOR KHOURY'S VISIT SUBSTANTIALLY
CORROBORATED BY KHOURY IN MAY 19 CONVERSATION WITH DATT (SEE
IR 6857 0043 77). WE SHARE SHIHABI'S VIEW THAT NEW LEBANESE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02674 031057Z

ARMY COMMANDER KHOURY IS "DETERMINED" ?(REF A, PARA 2), ALTHOUGH
HE FACES MANY POLITICAL-ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS, SOME OF HIS
OWN MAKING: FOR EXAMPLE, HIS FAILURE TO MAKE CLEAR,
BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF THE RETIREMENT GRACE PERIOD,
EXACTLY WHICH ARMY OFFICERS HE THOUGHT SHOULD RETIRE
(BEIRUT 2386). IT NOW APPEARS THAT SARKIS AND KHOURY
WILL INDEED HAVE TO MAKE USE OF THEIR POWERS TO DISMISS

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS (REF A, PARA 3), BUT WE KNOW OF NO PRESENT FIRM PLANS TO DO SO.

3. SYRIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON. IMPLICATION OF SHIHABI'S COMMENTS ON SYRIAN AID TO RE-EQUIP LEBANESE ARMY (REF A, PARA 6) IS THAT SYRIANS DON'T FEEL THEY HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO VERY MUCH. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF SYRIAN AID, WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION OF ANY SYRIAN WILLINGNESS TO OFFER LARGE-SCALE ASSISTANCE TO THE LEBANESE ARMY, NOR OF ANY PARTICULAR LEBANESE INTEREST IN SUCH. THE LEBANESE WANT AMERICAN EQUIPMENT, BUT ARE TAKING A REALISTIC GO-SLOW ATTITUDE. FOR NOW, KHOURY IS THINKING SMALL -- POSSIBLY TRAINING AND REEQUIPPING JUST ONE BRIGADE OF THREE BATTALIONS AS A FIRST STEP (SEE IR 6857 #041 77).

4. SOUTHERN BORDER. ALTHOUGH TEMPO OF ARTILLERY EXCHANGES IN SOUTH LEBANON HAS RECENTLY INCREASED, WE CONCUR THAT TENSION IN THE AREA HAS EASED IN THE SENSE THAT NO IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE HAS CHANGED HANDS SINCE LATE APRIL (REF A, PARA 7). IN AFTERMATH OF LIKKUD VICTORY, THERE IS AN EASED APPREHENSION ABOUT POSSIBLE AGGRESSIVE ISRAELI INTENTIONS (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, BEIRUT 2589), AND PALESTINIANS HAVE TAKEN MORE BELLICOSE ATTITUDE (BEIRUT 2583). WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT AN INCREASE IN GROUND OPERATIONS IS IN THE OFFING FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02674 031057Z

5. CAIRO ACCORD. WE SHARE SHIHABI'S VIEW (REF A, PARA 8) THAT THE ORIGINAL CAIRO ACCORD OF 1969 ADMITS OF MULTIPLE INTERPRETATIONS, WHICH IS WHY IT HAS SURVIVED THIS LONG AS A POINT OF REFERENCE AT LEAST NOMINALLY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE VARIOUS CONTENDING LEBANESE AND ARAB FACTIONS. WE WONDER IF SYRIA IS REALLY READY TO "DO WHATEVER SARKIS ASKED OF IT" REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORD. WOULD SHIHABI ORDER SYRIAN TROOPS TO ATTACK SABRA/SHATILA CAMPS IF SARKIS SO REQUESTED, IN THE FACE OF SAUDI, KUWAITI, AND EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION? WE DOUBT IT. WE AGREE WITH SHIHABI THAT THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT ADF WILL FORCE ITS WAY INTO THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS. BUDEIT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT02674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770198-0379
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT JOINT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770695/aaaadfdg.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8fe64086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DAMASCUS 3213, 77 STATE 120648
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Jul-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2295678
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIHABI'S COMMENTS ON LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SY, LE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8fe64086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009